



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
MANAGER'S REPORT

DATE ISSUED: February 24, 2005 REPORT NO. 05-051

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Agenda of March 2, 2005

SUBJECT: Public Safety Communications Project Status Report

REFERENCE: San Diego Fire-Rescue Overview, Manager's Report
05-010, dated January 7, 2005
Public Safety Funding Plan, Manager's Report 04-101, dated
May 7, 2004
Comprehensive Public Safety Needs Assessment, Manager's
Report 04-057, dated March 12, 2004
Public Safety Communications Status Report, Manager's
Report 03-181, dated September 5, 2003

SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATION ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE
PART OF THE COMMITTEE OR THE CITY COUNCIL.

BACKGROUND

This report provides an update concerning the status and implementation of the Public Safety Communications Project (PSCP) and interim steps that are being taken until funding can be identified to meet this critical public safety need.

DISCUSSION

On December 1, 2002 the Communications Division of the Information Technology & Communications (IT&C) Department completed the Wireless Communications Long Term Plan (WCLTP). This plan serves as the roadmap for providing city staff with reliable, cost effective wireless communications technologies that are used to provide service to our citizens. There are a number of key initiatives identified in the WCLTP that directly impact public safety communications for Police, Fire-Rescue and other public safety personnel that are to be implemented over a 10-year period. These are:

- Upgrade Digital Paging System
- Replace Digital Microwave System
- Replace Mobile Data Terminals for Police and Fire-Rescue Departments
- Build new Public Safety Dispatch Facility
- Replace 800 MHz Radio Network
- Replace Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) Systems
- Replace Mobile Data Terminal System (build city-owned network)
- Replace Fire Station Alerting System
- Convert Existing Fire Communications Center to backup Public Safety Dispatch Center and Primary 3-1-1 Public Service Dispatch Center

Because of the high priority of these public safety initiatives, the Public Safety Communications Project (PSCP) was identified for funding via a voter-approved increase in the Transient Occupancy Tax (Proposition J) placed on the November, 2004 election. However, Proposition J failed to pass.

Since November 2004, Communications Division staff has been working on contingency plans in order to keep existing systems performing reliably for an additional three year period. A Needs Assessment was conducted on these critical systems to prioritize those components that must be upgraded or replaced to maintain reliable system performance. Preliminary estimates show that approximately \$15 million will be needed to implement the contingency plan over a three year period.

The elements of the contingency plan in order of priority include:

CONTINGENCY PLAN ITEM	ESTIMATED COST
Upgrade Firmware for the 800 MHz Radio Network	\$58,000
Replace Base Station on 800 MHz Radio Network	\$1,850,000
Replace Simulcast Equipment and Channel Banks on 800 MHz Radio Network	\$2,700,000
Replace Dispatch Consoles and Embassy Switch on 800 MHz Radio Network	\$3,800,000
Upgrade 800 MHz Radio Network Controller from SmartNet Type 2 to Smartzone 4.1	\$6,700,000
3 Year Contingency Plan Cost	\$15,108,000

A variety of funding sources including grants, donations and use of existing revenues are being utilized or explored in order to implement this contingency plan. Funding for the first two items totaling \$1.9 million is being considered in the FY06 budget process currently underway.

On a more positive note, significant progress has been made on several of the key initiatives of the PSCP. The upgrade of the City's Digital Paging System has been completed. Funding has been identified to replace the Digital Microwave Network and this project is underway. The replacement of the Mobile Data Terminals for Police and Fire-Rescue Departments has also been funded and this project will be completed this year.

Although the replacement of the 800 MHz Radio Network requires a large infusion of funds, interim measures are being taken to fund user equipment purchases that can be utilized in the new radio network. All new mobile and portable radio equipment being purchased for Police and Fire-Rescue personnel are compatible with new Radio Network technical standards and do reduce the total project cost on an item for item basis.

CONCLUSION

The Communications Division continues to work with the Police and Fire-Rescue departments in order to provide reliable, cost effective wireless communications technologies to meet their mission in serving the citizens of San Diego. The importance of replacing the existing wireless infrastructure and existing systems cannot be overstated. As funding becomes available, implementation of the key initiatives will continue. In the meantime, staff will continue to assess communication systems performance and adjust the contingency plan as necessary to maintain reliable performance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Deputy City Manager & Chief Information Officer

ARELLANO/SJL